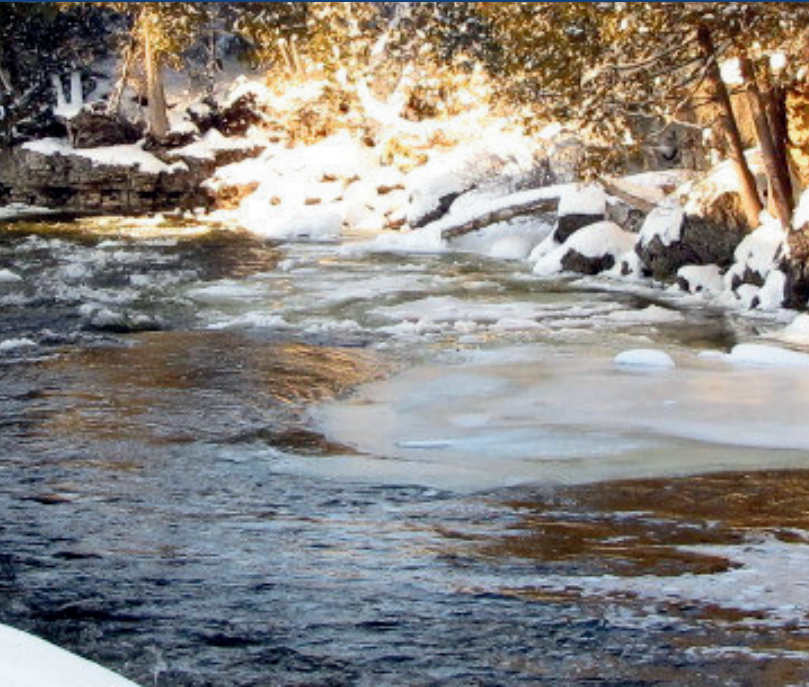


AMO 2026

Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing
August 17, 2026



MUNICIPALITY OF
West Grey



westgrey.com/conferences

With a population of 13,500, the Municipality of West Grey spans 876 square kilometres in southwest Grey County, with the River Styx, Rocky Saugeen, Beatty Saugeen, and South Saugeen Rivers serving as connecting links between our rural communities of Elmwood, Durham, Neustadt, and Ayton.

West Grey's deep agricultural and industrial history is evidenced by a strong work ethic and a workforce rooted in the trades, where "working hands" support our farms, our businesses, and each other.

As a municipality "nestled in nature," the rivers that transect our geography also present significant challenges from an infrastructure and public safety perspective. Durham, the largest settlement area in West Grey, has historically been impacted by the rivers that run through the heart of the community.

In January 1997, flooding caused by the accumulation of frazil ice along the main Saugeen River resulted in more than \$1.1 million in damages and displaced 200 residents.

In 2025 and 2026, West Grey incurred thousands of dollars in costs to mitigate the potential for a flood disaster due to frazil ice accumulation.

Mitigation efforts have included mobilizing heavy equipment 24/7 to assist in clearing accumulated ice along the river and preventing flooding in the downtown core. West Grey's investment in flood mitigation likely saved our downtown core from significant flooding damage and prevented further resident displacement. However, the only provincial funding available supports emergency remediation rather than investment in emergency mitigation.

Proactive flood mitigation is significantly more cost-effective than post-disaster recovery, yielding economic returns of up to \$10 for every \$1 invested.

Our ask: A review of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA) program to include support for emergency mitigation efforts.